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Letter dated 19 September 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the letter dated 22 August 1994 addressed to you by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations (A/49/332-S/1994/986) and, upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to state the following.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia rejects as absolutely unfounded the charges of its alleged intention to annex the "occupied parts of the Republic of Croatia".

As to the allegation of the representative of Croatia that "the Belgrade authorities" are "determined to establish a 'Greater Serbia'", it should be recalled that the size of the Republic of Serbia, as a constituent unit of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and a State with the longest international personality in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is very well known. The flag of Greater Serbia, so readily waved by Croatian representatives in the absence of substantive arguments, is solely designed to sustain the allegation about the threat from Serbia at a time when Serbia and the entire Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are making decisive contributions to the peace process, which are obviously very much at variance with the preconceptions and wishes of Croatian representatives.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has repeatedly pointed out that it has no territorial claims against any country. This is stated loud and clear in the declaration of the Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 27 April 1992, in which it is said that the Federal Republic of

* A/49/150.

Yugoslavia has no territorial claims against any of the republics of the former Yugoslavia, Croatia included.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has maintained from the very beginning that it has a legitimate right to protect the national rights of the Serb people, including the rights of a large part of it in former Yugoslav republics, including Croatia. To that effect, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia wishes to reiterate that the status of the Serb people must be resolved through negotiations based on full equality and self-determination, already recognized to all other peoples.

Consistent in its approach to this question, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has supported the Contact Group plan for the former Bosnia and Herzegovina and, in doing so, has rendered pointless the insinuations about its aspirations for territorial aggrandizement.

As to the territory of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, the Croatian reference to it as an "occupied territory" and its allegation that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia "continues to claim the existence of an illegal and self-proclaimed entity on Croatian territory" are unacceptable. The legitimate framework of the Republic of Serbian Krajina was established by the Vance Plan in December 1991, a formally agreed and signed international agreement, according to which the question of the final status of the Serb people in this territory is to be determined in a peaceful way and through negotiations on equal terms, without prejudice to the final solution. Insistence by Croatian representatives on formulations contrary to the Vance Plan and Security Council resolutions is designed to provide a justification to their threats that these areas will be "liberated" by all means, including use of force. The allegations contained in the letter of the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations that "the Belgrade authorities" intend "to annex the occupied parts of the Republic of Croatia" are a function of this very same goal.

The Republic of Serbian Krajina cannot therefore be considered an illegal entity, while in seeking a final solution for its status, the Serb people must be considered a constituent people on equal footing with the Croatian people.

Bearing that in mind, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will accept any solution for the status of the Republic of Serbian Krajina that will be reached in a dialogue between its legitimate organs and the Croatian authorities on a footing of equality.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.